



## Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/29/26 Update

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The United States, Israel, and Iran reached a two-week ceasefire agreement on April 7, which President Donald Trump extended indefinitely on April 21. JINSA continues to release regular updates about the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of April 29 at 10:00 am ET.

Days left in U.S.-Israel-Iran ceasefire: **Extended indefinitely**

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **15**, following April 23 three-week extension

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **209** (1 on April 28)

Hezbollah attacks since ceasefire: **At least 44** (at least 10 on April 28–29)

Ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **At least 260** (at least 23 on April 28–29)

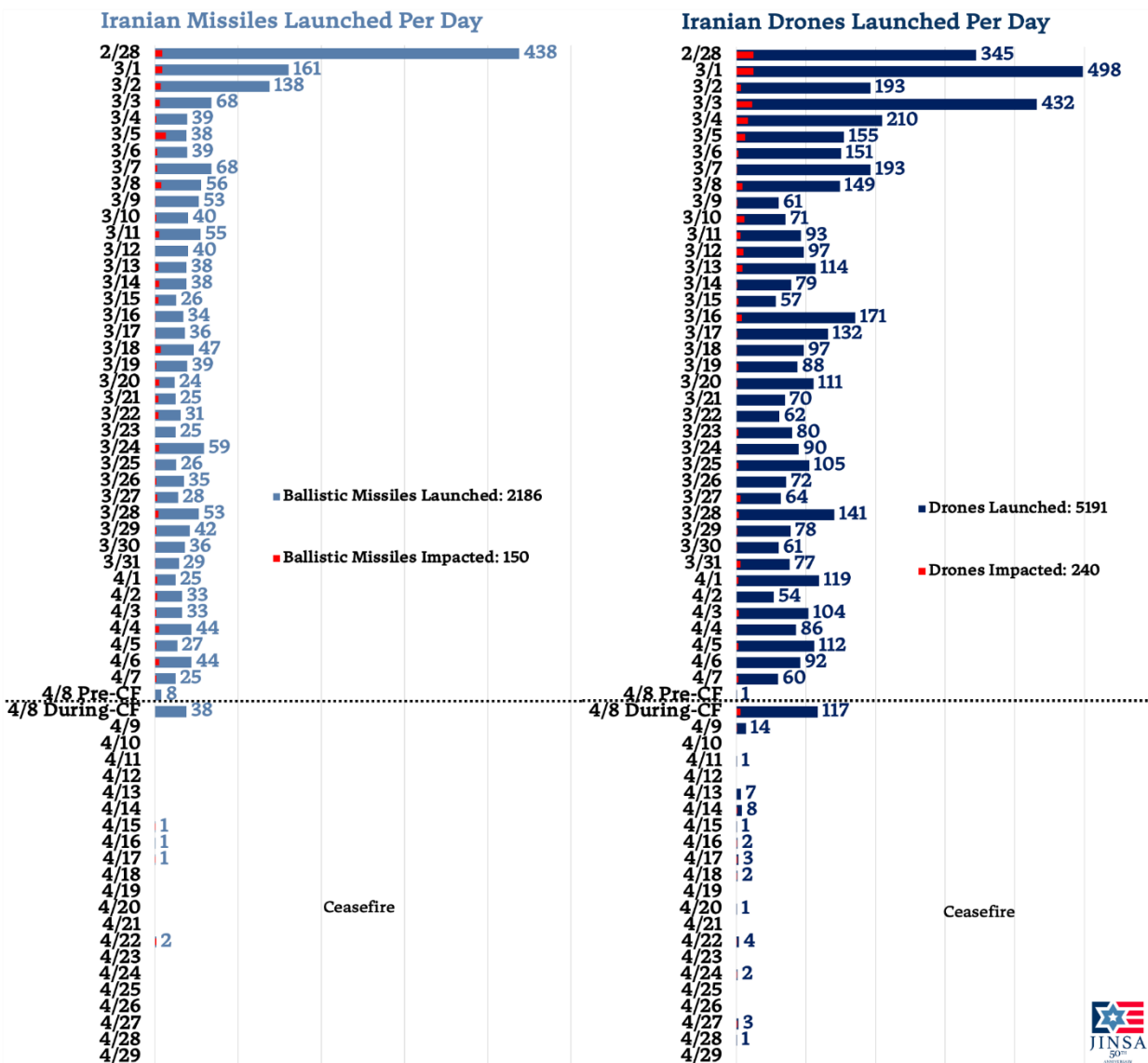
- Note: The blockade line that the Pentagon announced crosses where the Gulf of Oman opens into the Arabian Sea and is at a different location than the Strait of Hormuz itself.

### 1. Overview

- In a Truth Social [post](#) on April 29, President Donald Trump claimed that “Iran can’t get their act together. They don’t know how to sign a nonnuclear deal. They better get smart soon!”
- President Trump has reportedly told his aides to prepare for an extended, indefinite-length blockade against Iran, according to an [article](#) in *The Wall Street Journal* on April 29.
- Commercial shipping flows through the Strait of Hormuz waterway remain at a minimal level. On April 29 as of 10:00 am ET, just four commercial vessels have transited the Strait, according to JINSA-reviewed shipping data from the Kpler analytics firm.
- While such breaches have been relatively rare, a cargo vessel traveling outbound from Iran appeared to sail across the U.S. blockade line on April 28.
  - » The Gambian-flagged *Lianstar*, which logged its port of origin as Bushehr, Iran, traveled eastward from Iran’s territorial waters and across the U.S. blockade line into the Arabian Sea, per Kpler data.
- On April 29, the Iranian rial [decreased](#) in value to 1.8 million rial against the dollar on the black market, a record low valuation and a downturn from 1.7 million rial per dollar before the war began.
- On April 28, *Iran International* [reported](#) that members of Tehran’s hardline establishment are divided over Iran’s approach to negotiations, with dozens of members of parliament refusing

to sign a letter affirming support for the Iranian negotiating team and lead negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf.

- On April 28-29, Hezbollah launched at least 10 attacks targeting northern Israel and Israeli forces in southern Lebanon.
- On April 28, Israel's *Channel 12* reported, citing insider sources, that Hezbollah has [been rationing](#) its weapons stockpile and is currently unable to import new arms from Syria, as it had in the past.
- On April 28, Iraqi air defenses [shot](#) at a drone that flew over the Green Zone that houses the U.S. embassy in Baghdad, marking the first incident targeting the Iraqi capital since the ceasefire went into effect.
  - » Over the first two days of the ceasefire, Iran launched 131 drones and 38 ballistic missiles at Israel and Gulf nations.
  - » Iran has launched roughly 5,191 drones, 2,186 ballistic missiles, and 59 cruise missiles since the war began.



## 2. Diplomatic Engagement

### *Iran*

- In an interview with the Associated Press on April 28, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi [shared](#) that the agency’s “best estimate” is that Iran’s Isfahan nuclear site likely continues to hold most of the country’s highly enriched uranium.
  - » Grossi also told [Bloomberg TV](#) that Iran’s near weapons-grade uranium “is accessible if there’s a wish to go there.”
  - » The IAEA [estimates](#) that, of the total 440.9 kilograms of uranium Iran has enriched up to 60 percent, about 220 kilograms are located in Isfahan’s tunnels.
  - » Grossi [added](#) that “What’s going to be important is that that material [highly enriched uranium] leaves Iran” or is downblended, which would reduce its level of enrichment.
    - The IAEA has discussed exporting Iran’s highly enriched uranium with Moscow and others.
- On April 28, a senior Pakistani government official told [Reuters](#) that “the Iranians are painfully slow in their response. ... There is apparently no one decision-making command structure. At times, it takes them 2 to 3 days to respond.”
- On April 27, 27 members of the Iranian parliament [declined](#) to sign a letter that affirmed support for Tehran’s negotiators and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf’s leadership in the negotiations.
  - » Mahmoud Nabavian, one of the members of parliament who refused to sign the letter, who also traveled with Iran’s negotiating team, reportedly [claimed](#) that the delegation was willing to breach Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei’s “red lines” on nuclear issues.
  - » Saeed Jalili, a member of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council and former nuclear negotiator, reportedly [requested](#) that Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei state whether the negotiating team’s decisions are in line with his orders.
    - Jalili added that if Khamenei does not write such a message, “there is one hundred percent a ‘sedition of officials,’ and all these statements are written by the coup plotter himself.” This post has since been removed.

### *Lebanon*

- According to the Hezbollah-linked Lebanese outlet *Al-Akhbar* on April 29, Washington will not [provide](#) a guarantee to stop Israeli strikes deep into Lebanon as part of a deal between Israel and Lebanon, in order to maintain Israel’s right to self-defense.

## 3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- In. On April 28, the U.S. Department of the Treasury [sanctioned](#) 35 individuals and entities for participating in Iran’s shadow banking operations, claiming these people and companies were “facilitating the movement of the equivalent of tens of billions of dollars tied to sanctions evasion and Iran’s sponsorship of terrorism.”

### *Lebanon*

- On April 29, Israel’s military confirmed that the Israeli Air Force (IAF) [struck and killed](#) two Hezbollah operatives in southern Lebanon on April 27, while troops also discovered a weapons stash belonging to the group.

- On April 28, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) [demolished](#) two tunnels in Qantara in southern Lebanon containing weapons and attack staging areas, which Hezbollah had constructed over a decade ago with the Iranian regime’s direct guidance.
  - » The IDF stated that while the tunnels were not connected, their lengths together totaled around two kilometers, and were two of the most extensive underground structures the Israeli military has ever discovered in southern Lebanon.
  - » According to the IDF, the tunnels were “funded by the Iranian terror regime and as part of Hezbollah’s plan to conquer the Galilee,” in northern Israel.
- On April 28, the IAF [bombed](#) several Hezbollah sites in southern Lebanon, including rocket launchers and weapons arsenals, and killed three fighters planning to harm Israeli soldiers.

#### 4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- On April 29, *Bloomberg* [published](#) an analysis of satellite imagery from April 26 that depicts a 29-year-old Iranian supertanker, *The Nasha*, docked at Iran’s Kharg Island.
  - » According to *Bloomberg* and the United Against Nuclear Iran advocacy group, *The Nasha* disappeared from radars after transporting cargo approximately two to three years ago, but its reemergence at Kharg Island suggests Iran is deploying retired vessels to offload oil as its storage space dwindles due to the U.S. blockade on Iranian ports.
- Most vessels that have recently [transited](#) the Strait of Hormuz have used Iranian-designated routes, with roughly half having loaded their cargoes at Iranian ports, according to shipping data cited by CNN on April 29. The article did not specify how many ships have transited the Strait in recent weeks.
- After boarding the M/V *Blue Star III* on April 28 while transiting the Arabian Sea, U.S. forces [released](#) the commercial ship after confirming it was obeying the U.S. blockade and not traveling to an Iranian port.
- Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent [said](#) in an April 28 X post that Iran’s primary oil export terminal at Kharg Island is approaching storage capacity, which will force Iran to reduce its oil production and cost the regime approximately \$170 million per day in lost revenue. Bessent added that the impending shutdowns will also cause permanent damage to its oil infrastructure.
- U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [stated](#) on April 28 that 39 vessels in total—an increase of one vessel from JINSA’s last update on April 27—had complied with U.S. orders to turn back toward Iranian ports since the blockade took effect.
- Transits through the Strait of Hormuz [hit](#) their lowest point since the war began during the week of April 20–26 compared to the prior week as the combined effect of the U.S. blockade and renewed Iranian attacks on commercial shipping took hold, according to Lloyd’s List Intelligence data cited by *The Wall Street Journal* on April 28. Prior to the war, approximately 130 ships passed through the waterway daily.

#### 5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

##### *Lebanon*

- In recent days, Hezbollah has increased its use of fiber-optic first-person-view (FPV) [drones](#) that are resistant to electronic jamming.
  - » Hezbollah previously had made limited use of FPV drones, which have been a heavy feature of the Russia-Ukraine war.

- » However, Israeli forces have reportedly begun [adapting](#) to the fiber-optic drones, including exploring the use of mobile radars, small arms, and nets over their positions to counter the drones.
- In several incidents on April 29, Israel's military intercepted Hezbollah drones targeting Israeli troops in southern Lebanon and northern Israeli communities.
  - » The IAF [intercepted](#) a Hezbollah drone before it crossed into Israeli territory, prompting sirens in Avivim in northern Israel.
  - » Israeli defenses [intercepted](#) an alleged Hezbollah drone flying over Israeli troops operating in southern Lebanon.
  - » The IDF [launched](#) an interceptor missile at a suspected Hezbollah drone flying near troops in southern Lebanon, prompting sirens in Metula in northern Israel, but the projectile did not cross the international border.
- On April 29, Hezbollah [fired](#) two rockets at the Upper Galilee region in northern Israel, with the IDF intercepting one of the rockets and permitting the other to crash into an open area.
- On April 28, Hezbollah [fired](#) an explosive-laden drone at an excavator in the Aitaroun area near Bint Jbeil in southern Lebanon, killing an Israeli Defense Ministry contractor and injuring his son, who worked for the same company.
- On April 28, an Israeli soldier was lightly [injured](#) after Hezbollah fired explosive-laden drones at troops operating in southern Lebanon, with one drone exploding near the soldiers.
- On April 28, the IAF [intercepted](#) an alleged Hezbollah drone before it entered Israeli territory, prompting [sirens](#) in Kiryat Shmona and other towns in the Galilee Panhandle.

#### *Iraq*

- On April 28, Iraqi security forces [fired](#) on a drone flying over the Green Zone in Baghdad, with security forces saying the drone was likely conducting surveillance and flew away from the area before it could be intercepted.

#### *Internal Dynamics and Repression*

- The United Nations [reported](#) on April 29 that, since the start of the Iran war on February 28, Iran has executed 21 or more individuals and arrested over 4,000 people.

## 6. Estimated Casualties of Iranian Operations

- Thirteen U.S. service members have died during Operation Epic Fury.
  - » An Iranian drone attack [killed](#) six U.S. servicemembers at Port Shuaiba in Kuwait on March 1: Maj. Jeffrey O'Brien, 45; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Marzan, 54; Capt. Cody Khork, 35; Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Amor, 39; Sgt. 1st Class Noah Tietjens, 42; and Sgt. Declan Coady (posthumously promoted from specialist), 20.
  - » A U.S. servicemember, Sgt. Benjamin Pennington, 26, was [killed](#) in a March 8 Iranian attack targeting U.S. troops at the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia.
  - » Six U.S. servicemembers were [killed](#) when a KC-135 aerial refueling aircraft crashed over western Iraq on March 12: Major John A. Klinner, 33; Captain Ariana G. Savino, 31; Technical Sergeant Ashley B. Pruitt, 34; Captain Seth R. Koval, 38; Captain Curtis J. Angst, 30; and Technical Sergeant Tyler H. Simmons, 28.
- At least 400 members of the U.S. military have been [injured](#) thus far in the war.
  - » Ten have been seriously [wounded](#), and at least 354 of the injured have reportedly returned to duty.

- » At least 15 Americans were [hurt](#) in an Iranian drone strike on Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait on April 6, most of whom were lightly injured.
- » In the March 27 Iranian attack on a U.S. base in Saudi Arabia, at least 15 U.S. service-members were [injured](#), including two who were seriously wounded.
- Since the war began, [at least 47 people have been killed in Israel](#), while over 7,794 have been [injured](#). [At least 16 of these casualties](#) include Israeli soldiers who have been killed while fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.
  - » Sgt. Idan Fox, 19, of Petah Tikva, was named as the Israeli soldier [killed](#) in a Hezbollah drone attack on April 25.
  - » 11-year-old Nesiah Karadi, from Israel's Bnei Brak city, [died](#) on April 24 from wounds sustained in an Iranian missile attack earlier this month.
- Since the war's outbreak, numerous other casualties have been reported:
  - » Iran: Through April 7, at least 3,636 people, including at least 1,221 military personnel, have been [killed](#), with at least 26,500 [wounded](#). *Iran International* reports that over 4,700 security personnel have been [killed](#), including members of the Basij, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and police forces.
  - » Azerbaijan: Four civilians have been [injured](#).
  - » Bahrain: Three people have [been killed](#), including a [Moroccan contractor](#), and at least 46 people [have been injured](#), including five [Emirati soldiers](#).
  - » Iraq: At least 119 people have been [killed](#), including 20 [people](#) in Iraqi Kurdistan.
  - » Jordan: At least 31 people have [been injured](#).
  - » Kuwait: Two [Kuwaiti navy sailors](#), two [Kuwaiti interior ministry officers](#), two [Kuwaiti civilians](#), and an [Indian national](#) have been killed; over 90 Kuwaiti military [personnel have been injured](#), and eight [civilians](#), including two [medical staff](#), have been wounded.
  - » Lebanon: At least 2,534 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 7,863 have been [wounded](#)—figures that do not distinguish between Hezbollah operatives and civilians.
  - » Oman: At least [three people](#) have been killed, and at least 15 have been [wounded](#).
  - » Qatar: Around 20 people have been [wounded](#), and seven were [killed](#) on March 22 in a helicopter crash in Qatari territorial waters due to a technical issue.
  - » Saudi Arabia: Three people have been killed, including a Saudi [national](#) and two [foreign nationals](#), and at least 23 others [have been injured](#).
  - » Syria: At least four people have been [killed](#) in Syria, and several others have been [injured](#).
  - » United Arab Emirates: 13 people have been [killed](#), and at least 224 have been [injured](#).

## 7. International Response

- On April 29, the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) [informed](#) some of its clients that they would have the option to load crude cargoes outside of the Gulf in May.
- On April 28, the United Kingdom [summoned](#) Iran's ambassador to protest what the government characterized as inflammatory and unacceptable social media activity by the Iranian embassy in London.

## 8. JINSA Resources

- Ari Cicurel, [Iron Dome Deployment to U.A.E. Showed Abraham Accords Defense Potential](#), April 28, 2026

- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, [The Iranian People: America's Most Powerful Weapon](#), April 26, 2026
- Hussein Mansour, [The Emirati Moment: The U.A.E.'s Strategic Cycle and the Iran War](#), April 24, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, [In Defense of the War, And How to Finish It](#), April 17, 2026
- Blaise Misztal and Yoni Tobin, [Lebanon Ceasefire Cannot Become Iranian Leverage](#), April 17, 2026
- Rena Gabber and Jonah Brody, [Epic Fury Reveals Vulnerabilities in the Axis Behind Iran](#), April 16, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe and Yoni Tobin, [Blockade Iran's Military, Not Just Its Export Revenue](#), April 15, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe and Ari Cicurel, [Operation Epic Fury: A Work in Progress](#), April 10, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Jonathan Ruhe, ["Iran's Next Move Is the Bomb—If the Regime Survives," RealClearDefense](#), April 9, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe, ["Trump Risks Losing the Plot—and the War—in Iran," The Dispatch](#), April 7, 2026
- Ari Cicurel, [Finishing the Job: Targeting Iran's Repression Machine](#), April 7, 2026
- Jonah Brody, [Greece and Cyprus in the War Against Iran](#), April 6, 2026
- JINSA Iran Policy Project, [End States, Not End Dates: Defining Success for Operation Epic Fury](#), April 1, 2026
- Blaise Misztal, [How This War Will End, If It Ends Now](#), April 1, 2026
- Meriem Mokhtari, [The Triple Betrayal: Operation Epic Fury, The Gulf's Public Discourse, and U.S. Stakes](#), March 31
- Jonathan Ruhe, [Strengthening U.S. Force Posture at Israeli Bases](#), March 31, 2026
- Yoni Tobin and Sarah Havdala, [From the Ceasefire's Ashes: War Returns to Israel's Northern Front](#), March 30, 2026
- Svante E. Cornell, [Turkey on Iran: Gains, Risks, and Strategic Restraint](#), March 30, 2026
- Hussein Aboubakr Mansour, [If Tehran Survives](#), March 27, 2026
- Ari Cicurel, [The Eroding Shield: Air Defense Against Iran](#), March 26, 2026
- Jonah Brody and Rena Gabber, [The Axis Behind Iran: How China, Russia, and North Korea Sustain Tehran's Military Threat](#), March 25, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe, [Scared Strait: Ending Iran's Threat to Hormuz and the Gulf](#), March 19, 2026
- VADM Herman Shelanski, USN (ret.), IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, and Blaise Misztal, ["Webinar - Iran's Threat to Global Shipping: What Can Be Done?"](#) March 19, 2026
- Giran Ozcan and Jonah Brody, [Iran's Kurdish Coalition and the Future of the Opposition](#), March 18, 2026
- Hussein Mansour, [If Tehran Falls: How Iran's Collapse Reshuffles Arab Gulf Relations](#), March 16
- Infographic: [Operation Epic Fury—What is the Aim Point?](#), March 13, 2026